

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 6, 2006 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1-18 are in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 10 are amended. Claim 2 is canceled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 8-11, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatesan in view of Maes et al. (hereinafter, "Maes") (US 6,625,298). More specifically in regard to claim 2, the rejection states that Maes discloses that the displaced frame difference is computed by forming an estimated frame (estimated frames are represented as "missing" frames or frames that occur twice at col. 4, lines 46-51)." Reading this section in its entirety, it is clear that an "original" is always needed for the "missing" or "duplicate" frames. Claim 1 now clearly states that it is performed "without reference to the original unwatermarked digital image sequence." This was limitation is now clearly in the body of the claim and is a clear limitation. For thoroughness, it is noted that Venkatesan can not be combined with Maes to suggest the amended limitation in claim 1 since it would render Maes unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and alter its principle of operation. "The proposed modification cannot render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose," and "the proposed modification cannot change the principle of operation of a reference." MPEP 2143.01

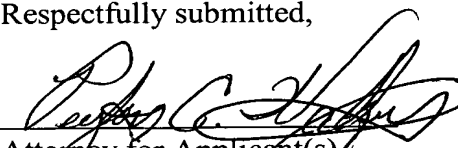
Therefore, Maes individually or in combination with Venkatesan does not suggest or teach this step as now claimed.

Support for the amendment is on page 11, line 12 to page 12, line 3.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.